

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 NEA-10 /030 R

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ERDA/AIA:H.CURTIS

NEA/INS:R.OBER

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O 251632Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211009

STADIS////////////////////

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:TECH, OTRA, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR AND SETHNA VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: BOMBAY 2132; BOMBAY 2207

1. WITH REGARD DATA ON DESIGN, WEIGHT, ETC. OF U.S. CASKS WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO TRANSPORT TARAPUR FUEL, BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT PRELIMINARY DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO IAEC ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1. ERDA, THROUGH ITS SAVANNAH RIVER OPERATIONS OFFICE, IS NOW MAKING SURVEY OF POSSIBLE U.S. CASK SOURCES TO OBTAIN SUCH DETAIL. AT TIME PRELIMINARY DATA PROVIDED, ERDA WOULD EXPECT TO RAISE A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS WITH IAEC WHICH WOULD HELP IN DETERMINING THOSE CASKS WHICH ULTIMATELY MIGHT PROVE SUITABLE FOR TARAPUR FUEL SHIPMENTS.

2. WITH REGARD EXPERT TO REVIEW NFC OPERATIONS FROM STANDPOINT OF DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS UNDER XSNM-845 NEEDED IN  
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INDIA, ERDA IN PROCESS OF LINING UP APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED

PERSON OR PERSONS HAVING RECOGNIZED COMPETANCE IN FIELD. WE ARE AWARE OF URGENCY AND HIGH DESIRABILITY OF HAVING SURVEY DONE WHILE SETHNA IS IN INDIA, BUT WE ARE SURE THAT SETHNA WILL AGREE THAT SELECTION OF PROPER INDIVIDUAL ALSO IMPORTANT. IN SUM, WE WILL MAKE BEST EFFORT TO HAVE PERSON (OR PERSONS) IN INDIA BY SEPTEMBER 8, WHICH WILL AT LEAST ALLOW SETHNA TO SET GROUND RULES AND SEE PEOPLE OFF TO NFC. WE WILL THEN BE IN POSITION TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF SURVEY WITH SETHNA DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. IN CONNECTION WITH SURVEY, OUR ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT IT WILL ALSO BE DESIRABLE, IN ORDER TO HAVE COMPLETE PICTURE, FOR U.S. EXPERTS TO REVIEW PAST AND PROJECTED FUTURE REACTOR AND FUEL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE, AND WE ASSUME SETHNA WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO SETHNA VISIT, SEPTEMBER 27-28 IN WASHINGTON WILL BE SATISFACTORY, ALTHOUGH A FEW DAYS LATER WOULD BE PREFERABLE. (KRATZER WAS HOPING NOT TO HAVE TO RETURN SO EARLY FROM RIO, AND A DAY OR TWO PREPARATION BEFORE SETHNA ARRIVAL WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE.) FYI, SETHNA WILL BE ENTIRELY WELCOME IN WASHINGTON, BUT AS EMBASSY AND CONGEN WILL UNDERSTAND, NO INDIAN AEC OFFICIAL CAN EXPECT VIP TREATMENT IN U.S. UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. WE WILL NECESSARILY HANDLE SETHNA VISIT IN LOW KEY, AS A WORKING SESSION TO ADVANCE DISCUSSIONS BEGUN IN BOMBAY. WHILE WE SEE NO NEED TO DISCOURAGE SETHNA, HE SHOULD BE ACCLIMATED TO THIS PERCEPTION OF VISIT TO EXTENT APPROPRIATE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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